

Feeling of satisfaction

Donations put to use to improve patient and parent experience

So much of the work that happens within Janet Weis Children's Hospital focuses on making children feel well enough to leave the hospital; however, recent Children's Miracle Network funded initiatives are in place to make children and their families feel better during their hospital stay.

Through the years, Children's Miracle Network funds were used to purchase new furniture in patients' rooms for family to stay with children, such as sofa beds and recliners. Items were purchased such as a food cart allowing kids to place orders for items such as grilled cheese sandwiches and chicken fingers, and Children's Miracle Network funds have paid for upgrades of televisions and other accommodations in patient rooms. Funds also have provided positions and support for the Child Life Department which works to allow kids to be kids during their stay in the hospital.

Now in an effort to further improve patient satisfaction, Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger is helping to fund a new position: The Patient and Family Centered Care Coordinator. Patient and family centered care is an approach to health care that shapes policies, programs, facility design and staff day-to-day interactions. Evidence shows that it leads to better health outcomes, wiser allocation resources and patient and family satisfaction.

"This is a model that is in place in many of the high-performing children's hospitals in the country," Associate Vice President of Nursing Services Denise Venditti said. "We usually look at things as the provider and don't always realize how it will impact our patients or parents."

The position will be posted soon and will be filled before winter. Applicants must be a parent of a child who has used the children's hospital on multiple occasions.



Janet Weis Children's Hospital physicians, like Dr. Fareed Ahmad, (left) pediatric cardiology, work to fill the needs of not only their patients, but of patients' parents and families as well.

On the Web: *If you would like to read more about the equipment and programs that your donations have brought to our communities and view complete funded-project lists, visit us online at www.geisinger.org/cmnl/funded.*

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 Janet Weis
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Fall 2011

miracles

A newsletter for supporters of Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger

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Miracle graduate

Of the 173 students who graduated from Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre in June of this year, no one was as thankful to receive their diploma as 2008 Miracle Kid Sarah Godfrey.

In November 2006, Sarah was on her way home from school, when she crossed the street without looking and was struck by a car. She was flown to Geisinger's Janet Weis Children's Hospital via Life Flight® for a wide range of injuries, including swelling and bleeding in her brain and facial and jaw bone fractures.

During the 24 hours immediately following the accident, the swelling worsened in her brain and she had to have emergency surgery. The initial procedure was followed by several more surgeries by pediatric specialists from 12 different hospital departments. Sarah came through the procedures well, but remained in a coma for several weeks.

Sarah went through months of rehabilitation and therapy and eventually was

able to return to school. She made the transition nicely, and was able to earn a 3.85 grade point average, while graduating with Highest Honors. This August she began her first semester at Ursinus College in Collegeville.

Sarah always wanted to do something to help people and, after her experience, she decided to focus her studies on the human brain and medicine.

"I will be entering into a psychology major and eventually I want to concentrate in pediatric neuroscience and human development," she stated in a letter sent to her Geisinger team of physicians. "I will never forget that I owe my life to you, and I will spend the rest of my life striving to make you proud."

Her father could only echo the words Sarah shared with her Geisinger team.

"We couldn't ever begin to thank the countless people that helped us through that tough time," said Sarah's father, Mark Godfrey. "Not a day goes by that we don't think how close we were to not having her around. It is good to know that there are such great people around when something as tragic as this happens."



Upcoming events

Murder Mystery Dinner and Dance

Dinner and dancing will highlight an upcoming event benefiting Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger, but an unfortunate member of the dinner party will meet his demise!

The first-ever Murder Mystery Dinner Dance will be held from 6 to 11 p.m., Oct. 22 at POSH @The Scranton Club.

Guests are asked to come play their part in the special event, which features refreshments, Hors d'oeuvres, a land and sea dinner, dancing to *Into the Spin* and a fun game of whodunit.

The cost is \$65 per person. Vegetarian meals are available upon advance request. Seats are limited, so don't delay. For more information or to reserve seats, call (800) 322-5437.

Champagne Brunch is Oct. 23

The second annual Champagne Brunch and silent auction will be held at 11 a.m., Oct. 23 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College.

Guests will be treated to a silent auction, buffet-style brunch, champagne and a brief program showcasing how events such as this help thousands of kids in our area.

Tickets are \$75 per person or \$600 for a table of 10. For more information or to reserve your seats, call 1-800-451-5437.

Turkey Trot events are Nov. 19

For the first time, Geisinger Health System will offer the Turkey Trot 5k race in three separate locations to benefit Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger.

The race will be held at 9 a.m., Nov. 19 simultaneously at Knapper Clinic, Danville Campus; Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre and the Gray's Woods Clinic in Port Matilda.

Runners and walkers can compete against others simultaneously running across the

state or simply just take to the streets to support a good cause and stay healthy.

Download a registration form at www.geisinger.org/cmn/calendar or for more information, call 1-800-322-5437.

GWV NICU to open later this month

Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre plans to open its neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) this month.

The hospital handles about 1,250 births per year, and the new, 12-bed NICU is expected to see 120 newborns in the first year.

A ribbon cutting will be held in late October to dedicate the facility. Children's Miracle Network funds were used to help facilitate the NICU project.

Save the date: Breakfast with Santa

Santa Claus will be making his rounds and visiting with good girls and boys during two events in early December.

Santa will make a stop in Altoona on Dec. 3 at a venue to be determined for breakfast and will make a stop in Danville on Dec. 10 at the Danville Moose.

For more information about Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger events, visit www.geisinger.org/cmn.



Santa will take time out of his busy schedule to visit girls and boys in early December.

You can make miracles happen

Enclosed, please find my donation of:

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

\$12x12 (credit card only; \$12 per month for 12 months)

\$25x12 (credit card only; \$25 per month for 12 months)

Name _____

Street address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Payment: Check/money order (*payable to "Geisinger Health System Foundation"*)

MasterCard Visa Discover Am. Express

Account number _____

Exp. date _____ Signature _____

Please send completed form with payment to:

Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger
100 N. Academy Ave. MC 50-20
Danville, PA 17822-5020

*Want to make your donation in honor of or memory of someone special?
Visit www.geisinger.org/cmn to print out a donation form or make your gift online.*

Charitable organizations that solicit contributions are required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to provide the following statement: "A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement." You may obtain a copy of the Geisinger Foundation's financial report by contacting either Geisinger, Tax Department, 100 N. Academy Ave., Danville, PA 17822-3023 or the NY Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271-0332.

M-0910



Celebration Weekend 2011, which took place in June, ended with a grand total of \$2.1 million raised for Janet Weis Children's Hospital pediatric services. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to fund more than half of the items requested for 2011.

94KX in tune with kids

Radiothon garners more than \$46,000

The 11th Annual 94KX Cares for Kids Radiothon, held Aug. 5 to 7, raised \$46,134 for Janet Weis Children's Hospital pediatric services.

The weekend-long radiothon featured 94KX personalities Drew Kelly and Ali Stevens. Drew and Ali conducted interviews with Janet Weis Children's Hospital physicians and staff, contributors and Children's Miracle Network Miracle Kids and caregivers during broadcasts at the children's hospital and the Susquehanna Valley Mall.

The popular Ashley's Auction event, held at the mall on Saturday of the radiothon, raised a personal best \$26,216 that contributed toward the overall weekend total. Ashley Brubaker and her family auctioned off more than 700 items that were donated for this year's event.



Drew Kelly of 94KX talks with 2001 Miracle Child Heather (Bowman) Goshert at the 2011 radiothon. Goshert now works as a nurse for Janet Weis Children's Hospital.

A Fairytale Costume Contest and Parade was held on Sunday at the mall and was a huge hit for kids and parents in attendance. To see photos from the event, visit the Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cmngeisinger.

Pledges still can be made by visiting our website at www.geisinger.org/cmnn.

System upgrade

Miracle dollars used to purchase new epilepsy monitoring equipment

Through Children's Miracle Network donations, Janet Weis Children's Hospital has expanded its pediatric epilepsy program during the last few years.

Last year updated epilepsy monitoring equipment was purchased for Geisinger Wyoming Valley and a portion of this year's donations will be used to purchase four of the same machines for Janet Weis Children's Hospital.

"The state-of-the-art equipment will allow for continuous video and EEG monitoring

of children who have had reoccurring seizures," said Dr. Jill Gotoff, Pediatric Neurologist. "The equipment allows for remote access for doctors. Patients can be monitored for longer periods of time allowing doctors to evaluate for medication or determine if the child is having epileptic events."

Only a small amount of children suffer from epilepsy, one of every 100, but with the new updated equipment, parents can rest easy knowing their child's condition has been fully evaluated.

Contact us

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